

Death Rate Among Belgians Higher Than on Battlefield

Under German Occupation, Ill Treatment, Privations and
Poor Food Kill Thousands—One Execution Daily—
Situation Can Only Be Worse, Says Legation

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

WASHINGTON, May 11.—The existing death rate in Belgium is as high as at the time of the most terrible epidemics and greater than that on the battlefield, due to the extremities to which German occupation has reduced the country. In addition, at least one Belgian daily is executed by the German authorities, according to a statement made public to-day by the Belgian Legation. The statement came from Havre and read as follows:

"Not taking into account the losses on the field of battle, Belgium has suffered heavily in its civilian population through the invasion and occupation of its territory by the Germans.

"1. Civilians killed during the invasion, August-September, 1914.—Although we are not yet in possession of a complete list of the civilians killed by the Germans during those fateful days, we know the number of victims to be well over 5,000. For the following provinces we have approximate estimates: Namur, more than 1,800; Luxembourg, about 1,200; Liege, more than 1,000; Brabant, 807; Hainaut, about 500. Most of these victims fell in the towns where, under pretext of the existence of sharpshooters, German fury knew no limits. Dinant counted 508 victims; Andenne, more than 200; Tarnies, more than 400; Louvain, 210; Aerschot, about 150; Namur, about 75.

Deportees' Death Rate High

"2. Among the deportees the mortality resulting from privations, ill treatment, underfeeding, etc., exceeds largely the normal percentage of deaths. Some, too, have met death on the battlefields, where the Germans forced them to do auxiliary work. If we possess ample information about individual places and undeniable testimony on the broken health of the returned deportees in general, we are, however, unable to quote figures.

"3. The electrified wire which makes the Belgians prisoners in their own country accounts for a great number of victims, especially among young people, who try to escape in order to join the army, or among couriers, who try to smuggle news in or out of Belgium. In less than a year, between August, 1916, and July, 1917, 160 persons were electrocuted. Since then the average number of victims has increased, owing to the strengthening of the guards and the putting up of new wires.

"4. The death penalty, pronounced by the German military courts for crimes of patriotism, levies a heavy toll on the population. It is estimated that each day one Belgian at least suffers the supreme penalty.

Poor Food Kills Many

"The unsatisfactory food situation, due to the requisition of the home-grown foodstuffs and the sinking of many relief ships, the use of unsuitable substitutes, the lack of fuel, as a result of the exploitation by Germany

for her own consumption, and for exportation, of the Belgian coal fields, has dangerously increased the death rate.

"Deaths from hunger and cold are not unusual, but it is mostly indirectly that the underfeeding of the population causes numerous premature deaths, for, through lack of physical strength, many people are subject to rickets or tuberculosis, and so become unable to resist slight illnesses which, under normal conditions, would not prove fatal. As to the bad effect of unsuitable substitutes, it will suffice to recall the diseases contracted by the deportees through the use of raw rutabagas and the paralysis of the brain and of the marrow or the special kind of jaundice provoked by the use of lupin seeds as a substitute for coffee berries.

"The death rate all over Belgium, but especially in the large towns, is as high as at the time of the most terrible epidemics.

"The situation in 1918 can only grow worse; it is undeniable that the physical standard of the nation is lowering dangerously and that the effects of the German occupation on the health of the people will make themselves felt for a long time after the war.

Lewis Meets Aldridge

Latter, However, Says He Is Still for Whitman

ROCHESTER, May 11.—Attorney General Lewis and George W. Aldridge will not admit that they conferred today, but it is generally conceded that they met at the Republican headquarters, where they discussed the gubernatorial situation. Lewis was closeted in his private office most all of the afternoon, and to-night declined to talk. However, he said he would give out a statement to-morrow afternoon. Mr. Aldridge was uncommunicative. He would not admit that there had been a conference, but said he "might" have something to say to-morrow.

Mr. Aldridge intimated that he knew no reason to change the attitude he had already assumed toward Governor Whitman's candidacy. He has said that he was committed to the Governor's renomination, and the rank and file of the Monroe organization have accepted his remarks as final.

Mr. Lewis will find some strength in rural counties, possibly Orleans and Wyoming.

Dirigible Hits Tree Top And Falls on Long Island

JAMAICA, L. I., May 11.—A United States army dirigible, carrying three passengers, became entangled in the top of a tree a mile north of this place about 6 p. m. to-day. The silk body of the dirigible was ripped and the men were forced to descend.

Two of the passengers were United States Signal Corps men and the third was attached to the United States navy. They declined to say where they had come from and took the first train to New York.

War Labor Board Assumes Charge of Bethlehem Dispute

Adjudication Expected to
Establish New Principles
In Steel Industry

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

WASHINGTON, May 11.—At the request of the Department of Labor, whose conciliators were unable to reach a satisfactory adjustment of the dispute, the National War Labor Board to-day assumed jurisdiction in the case of the Bethlehem Steel Company and a group of electrical workers and machinists. Witnesses will be called next Tuesday, when the hearing begins in the Bethlehem, Penn., plant. The controversy involves the eight-hour day and the right of the employees to organize. The decision of the board is

expected to establish definitely the relations that in the future will exist between all steel interests and their employees.

The witnesses who are scheduled to appear Tuesday include President Eugene Grace, Superintendent R. A. Lewis and Shop Superintendents Straum and Shafer, for the employers; Howard Ellis, president of the Electrical Workers' Union of Allentown, Penn., and Committeemen James Bonner, Edgar Follweiler, Thomas B. Kirby and Martin Berwick, representing the electrical workers, and the following for the disaffected machinists: David Williams, business agent, Machinists' Union; Peter Sawl, W. C. Long, J. T. Thomas, W. H. Plank and D. Rose.

The War Labor Board decided to assume jurisdiction in the case when requested by the Department of Labor in the following letter:

"The Department of Labor respectfully represents:

"That on or about the 15th of April, 1918, complaints were received from employees of the Bethlehem Steel Company, at Bethlehem, Penn., that disputes had arisen between said employees and said company involving the conditions of employment in said plant; that Conciliators Fred L. Feick and E. P. Marsh were directed to go to Bethlehem and investigate conditions with a view of bringing about an amicable settlement between the con-

testants; that they were joined by representatives of the Department of Labor and Industry of Pennsylvania, and after full and patient hearing of both sides to the controversy our conciliators reported to this department that an amicable adjustment had been reached and that the machinists who had ceased work had returned.

"That on or about April 22 additional complaints reached this department from the electrical workers of said company and Conciliators E. P. Marsh and J. L. Spangler were directed to go to Bethlehem, and in conjunction with Senator Walter McNichol, of the Department of Labor and Industry of Pennsylvania, again take up the matter with the employees and the company for a final adjustment; that after a careful and exhaustive examination on the part of the conciliators they found that the machinists had quit work and the electrical workers, while remaining at work, were dissatisfied and threatened to quit their places; the department is satisfied that every effort a conciliation was made by its representatives on the ground failed to bring the parties together on any terms whatever; after notifying the employees that no adjustment could be brought about the employees requested this department to request that the War Labor Board should assume jurisdiction and fully investigate the merits of the controversy with a view of a permanent adjustment and settlement.

"This department has exhausted its efforts through its conciliators to reach a satisfactory result and, therefore, respectfully requests that the War Labor Board by virtue of its authority under the proclamation of the President investigate the merits of the controversy and bring about peaceful and harmonious relations between employers and employees.

"Respectfully submitted,

"H. L. Kervin, assistant to the Secretary of Labor.

"Commissioners of Conciliation,

"J. L. Spangler and E. P. Marsh."

Anzac, Blind 2 Years, Has Sight Restored

Signaller, at War Relief Exhibition, Tells How He Saw After Operation

Private Tom Skehill, of the Anzacs, calmly told several hundred people at the War Relief Art Exhibition, at the Anderson Art Galleries yesterday, that he had just had his sight restored, after having been blind for nearly two years from a shrapnel wound in the Gallipoli campaign.

Skehill, who was a signaller, said he lost his sight when he was struck by an exploding shell during a bayonet charge at Cape Hellas, Turkey, in December, 1916. He came to this country, and a week ago was examined by Dr. Riley Moore, at Washington, who found three dislocated vertebrae in his spine. A slight operation followed, and last Wednesday morning, when Skehill awoke, he was amazed to find he could see.

The exhibition, which includes nearly 800 works of art given by American artists, was opened yesterday for the benefit of the Permanent Blind Relief War Fund for Soldiers and Sailors. Addresses were made by Lieutenant Colonel J. S. Dennis, of the French army, and Canadian recruiting mission. The exhibition and sale will continue for two weeks.

Britain to Norway Aerial Mail Service to Open Soon

LONDON, May 11.—Dispatches to the Exchange Telegraph from Christiania say that aerial service between Aberdeen and Stavanger is expected to open soon for carrying mail. It is pointed out that economic interests between Great Britain and Norway are now so great that improved postal and passenger service is a necessity.

A new Norwegian air traffic company intends, also, to establish routes between the most important Norwegian cities and Copenhagen, Gothenburg and Stockholm.

Daniels Urges Prayer

He Tells Dr. Reisner War Will Be Won by Faith

The Rev. Christian F. Reisner, pastor of Grace M. E. Church, in West 104th Street, made public yesterday the following telegram from Secretary of the Navy Daniels:

"To-day the world in travail looks to the Church, as the representative of the living God, to recall men and women to the old gospel, the only support, the only firm foundation, the only light. All other creeds have failed. All other foundations have crumbled. They have themselves had a new baptism, ascended the mountain top and obtained a new vision and are calling to a world resolved to preserve freedom to a new consecration.

"The war will not be won by might alone. It will be won by faith, by prayer, by the courage which God imparts to all who in their hour of need look to Him for guidance and for strength."

If you are looking for a summer home read the unusual offerings in the REAL ESTATE columns of to-day's Sunday Tribune.—Advt.



SPECIAL FOR MONDAY

Women's Superior Quality
WHITE SILK HOSE
1.50 1.95 2.50
Various weights, reinforced
SPORTS HOSE 3.50
Ribbed styles in silk and wool.

Imported French
HANDMADE FROCKS
Expressly made for this shop
by the Paris Couturieres
MILER SOEURS and ARNOLD

Exclusive modes not to be had elsewhere,
designed on simple lines of crepe de chine,
chiffon, Georgette crepe, handkerchief linen
and muslin. 55.00 to 165.00

Imported French
HANDMADE BLOUSES

Unusual modes of handkerchief linen and
Georgette crepe in button-back, button-front
and slip-over types emphasizing unique style-
notes—frill collars, shield panels, tucked
Pierette collars, dainty handembroidered motifs,
Van Dyke collars, fine knife plaitings and
other features. 7.50 to 59.50

Original Bonwit Teller & Co.
HANDMADE BLOUSES

Exclusive models made in the
private workrooms of this shop.

Entirely original and typical Bonwit Teller &
Co. blouse-themes developed on simple, refined
lines with the finesse and dainty touches
of the most accomplished and deft hand
needle-workers.

Women's Printed Chiffon
& Georgette GOWNS
29.50 to 110.00

A high degree of artistry is given expression
in these gowns of elegance and simplicity.
Silhouettes that are unusual, carried out in
exquisite color-schemes of floral, conventional
and striped patternings.

Summer Fashions in
SEPARATE SKIRTS
3.90 to 40.00

Individualized styles, new fabrics, colorings and
treatments. Skirts of Georgette crepe, Baro-
nette satin, faille silk, tricolette, plaided Baro-
nette satin, printed Georgette crepe, foulard,
crepe de chine, fantaisi silk, organdie, cotton
gabardine, cotton tricotine printed in large
patterns, colored linen, high colored cut bolivia
and broadcloth and plaided wool.

BONWIT TELLER & CO.
The Specialty Shop of Originations
FIFTH AVENUE AT 38TH STREET

Twelve PARIS MODEL GOWNS
Cost of Import, 250.00 to 480.00 **85.00**

The balance of this season's imports to close out
Original gowns from Lanvin, Bernard, Cheruit, Roland,
Germaine and Paquin.

Women's MOTOR COATS **Reduced to 22.50**
Mixtures in tweed effects and black-and-white checks. Also wool jersey
in plain colors and heather tones.

Women's DAY CAPES **Special at 39.50**
Four distinctive models in tricotine and serge—side draped, stockinette
waistcoat, "wind-about" waistcoat and long waistcoat styles. Some have
linings of handsomely figured foulard.

Women's TAILLEUR SUITS **Formerly 35.00 to 45.00 28.00**
Included are many of the season's smartest models, selected from the
regular stock. Tailored, belted and vestee effects in tricotine, wool
jersey, men's wear serge, gabardine, checks.

Women's TAILLEUR SUITS **Formerly 49.50 to 69.50 38.00**
Braid bound and waistcoat models with vestees of satin, pique and novelty
fabrics; also belted and Eton styles in silk faille, tricotine, gabardine,
Poiret twill, men's wear serge, checks and stripes.

Clearance Sale of MILLINERY

PARIS MODEL HATS **Formerly 45.00 to 75.00 25.00 to 50.00**
Entire balance of this season's millinery importations
from the leading Paris modistes.

Reproductions PARIS HATS **Formerly 18.00 to 40.00 10.00 to 25.00**
Exact replicas of Paris model hats executed in the
Bonwit Teller & Co. workrooms.



SPECIAL FOR MONDAY
Women's and Misses'
WHITE SPORT SHOES
6.00

Sport oxfords in all white calfskin,
white buckskin with tan leather
trimming or white reingskin cloth.
Hand welted leather soles, low military
heels. Also white canvas sport
boots, with black or tan leather
trimming, hand welted leather soles,
low military heels.

Introducing Original Summer
Themes in "Jeune Fille" Fashions

**MISSSES' FROCKS of
CHINTZ & CALICO**
18.50 to 29.50

Typical Bonwit Teller & Co. interpretations
which carry the spirit of old-time quaintness
with the more modern feeling of chic and
"jeunesse." Engaging simplicity and refreshing
treatments establish the unusualness and origi-
nality of these frocks. Sizes 14 to 20.

MISSSES' FROCKS in original conceptions of
ORGANDIE, individualized themes in CLASS-
DAY and GRADUATION frocks. Patterned
FOULARDS, Vari-colored harmonies in PRINTED
CHIFFON and youthful styles in TAFFETA.

SWEATERS 5.75 to 55.00

Introducing many new modes in short corselet
and fishtail sweaters in SLIPOVER models with
and without sleeves in knitted silk, Shetland
wool and Skerry worsted. "Purled" sweaters
of BABY RIBBON in vivid colorings. Tuxedo
collar sweaters of feather-weight CHIFFON
WOOL. New weaves and shadings in silk
sweaters in BOX-PLAID coat style. Others
with BEADED collars.

The Department of Sports
Apparel Has Assembled
COUNTRY CLOTHES

of a simple and distinguished character empha-
sizing unusual fabrics and colorings.

**Suits of Hand Loomed Tweeds
and Homespuns**

—rare, selected fabrics—rich tweeds and home-
spuns with brilliant "burrs" of color. Executed
with the finesse of finest custom tailoring for
the country gentlewoman.

SPORT CAPES OF ENGLISH WOOLENS
VICUNA-CASHMERE POLO COATS, SPORT
WAISTCOATS AND LEATHER APPAREL

FOX SCARFS

Choice selected pelts, fashioned into scarfs of
the latest mode by skilled furriers.

Limited Quantity of Kamchatka
and Taupe Fox Scarfs **29.50**

BLUE FOX SCARFS
95.00 110.00 125.00

Choice selected pelts, in the natural blue—
many beautifully silver-flecked.

BONWIT TELLER & CO.

The Specialty Shop of Originations
FIFTH AVENUE AT 38TH STREET

Announce

The Exclusive Distribution—with
the exception of the Mme. Rubin-
stein Maison de Beaute Valaze,
New York—of the well known

Mme. Helena Rubinstein
Valaze
Beauty Preparations

The VALAZE presented is exactly the
same preparation as that on sale at
Mme. Rubinstein's European Estab-
lishments—Paris, 252 Rue St. Honore,
and London, W. 24 Grafton Street.

BONWIT TELLER & CO.

The Specialty Shop of Originations
FIFTH AVENUE AT 38TH STREET

SPECIAL VALUES MONDAY—(MAIN FLOOR)

Women's Glove Silk Union Suits
Glove silk top with sheer lisle body, in white
and pink. **1.45**

Lisle Union Suits
Fine rib, sheer lisle, umbrella or tight knee in
regular and extra sizes. **.75**

Glove Silk Opera Vests
In white and pink with elastic top. **1.75**

Two-Clasp Gloves
Of Chamossite in white, beige, mastic and
gray. **1.00**

Short Silk Gloves
Double tipped fingers, Paris point
stitched backs. **.65**

French Kid Gloves
Two-clasp gloves, Paris Point
stitched backs. **1.75**